

**To:** Hal Candee[hcandee@altshulerberzon.com]  
**From:** Hal Candee  
**Sent:** Tue 1/12/2016 10:14:27 PM  
**Subject:** materials related to new Bill to approve Westlands Drainage Settlement  
Duped Into a Bad Water Deal Taxpayers for Common Sense.pdf  
Uncle Sam sells out the Delta - RecordNet 9-22-15.pdf  
Westlands agreement a retreat from previous US plan.pdf  
A huge water district defends a secret handout - LA Times.pdf  
DF to Glaser re USGS report 06 10 08.pdf  
7-30-15 House Letter to Agencies re Westlands Drainage Settlement.pdf

For those of you interested in today's new development described below (by the San Joaquin Valley congressman who has sponsored the House Republicans' drought bill over the past two years), see attached recent articles and blogs on the Westlands Drainage Settlement.

Hal

**From:** Hal Candee  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2016  
**Subject:** Bill introduced to approve Westlands Drainage Settlement

FYI –

Valadao Introduces Legislation to Resolve Drainage Dispute | Congressman David Valadao<<http://valadao.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398121>>

## Valadao Introduces Legislation to Resolve Drainage Dispute

Washington, Jan 12 | Anna R. Vetter ((202) 815-1685) |

Today, U.S. Congressman David G. Valadao (CA-21) introduced the San Luis Unit Drainage Resolution Act in the United States House of Representatives.

Washington - Today, Tuesday, January 12, 2016, U.S. Congressman David G. Valadao (CA-21) introduced H.R. 4366, the San Luis Unit Drainage Resolution Act in the United States House of Representatives. This legislation would authorize a settlement of a long-standing dispute between the United States and the Westlands Water District concerning the management of drainage water within Westlands' service area in the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project (CVP) in California. In doing so, the legislation will save the American taxpayers billions of dollars.

Under the legislation, the United States will be relieved of potential liability of \$3.5 billion for the statutory obligation to manage drainage water. The bill includes concessions made by both the Federal Government and Westlands Water District to resolve the dispute. Westlands will dismiss its drainage related claims against the U.S. and indemnify the U.S. for any damages for landowner claims arising out of pending takings litigation against the federal government. According to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the potential liability of the United States for these claims could exceed more than \$2 billion.

Importantly, no other CVP contractor will see their water supply jeopardized by the enactment of H.R. 4366.

Congressman David Valadao stated, "This legislation is necessary to approve and authorize the drainage settlement agreed to by both Westlands and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) this past year." He continued, "Furthermore, enactment of this legislation has the potential to save taxpayers billions of dollars. Ensuring taxpayer dollars go towards meaningful projects, such as increased water storage rather than fighting unnecessary litigation, is the responsible and most efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Specifically, the legislation will:

- Settle the above litigation and relieve the U.S. of its multi-billion dollar statutory and court-ordered drainage obligation
- Require Westlands to manage drainage water within its boundaries, in accordance with the federal and California law, and provide the Department of Interior the right to cease water deliveries to Westlands if it fails to do so
- Require Westlands to indemnify the U.S. for any damages and pay compensation for landowner claims arising out of the Etchegoinberry litigation
- Relieve Westlands of its existing approximate \$375 million capital

repayment obligations under its water service contract with the United States •Require Westlands to permanently retire 100,000 acres of land within its boundaries •Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convert Westlands' existing water service contract entered into under section 9(e) of the 1939 to a repayment contract under section 9(d) of the same act •Cap Westlands contract deliveries at 75% of its CVP contract amount

Congressman David G. Valadao represents the 21st Congressional District, which includes Kings County and portions of Fresno, Tulare, and Kern Counties.

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- See more at:

<http://valadao.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398121#sthash.eQnAdbPz.dpuf>

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